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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 67% Light rain Sensex 82,500 | Nifty 25,149 | Gold 97,830 | Silver 1,13,111 | Dollar 85.86 | Euro 100.24 | GBP 116.07

WANNA BET?

Then get ready to pay the price as State to introduce Bill to regulate online gambling; games of skill can continue

PAGE 2

FLIGHT PLAN

Fear, land price spikes, policy challenges stall momentum on city's second airport despite early groundwork

PAGE 7

As lakhs of women queue up for sterilisation surgeries, often painful, this statistic is downright alarming — in last 5 years, only 3,588 men in the state opted for vasectomy, despite incentives and pleas from doctors

THE BETTER HALF'S BURDEN

Fear, stigma, and misinformation dominate male attitudes over procedure

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In a society that often talks about equality in responsibilities, one area where men are significantly lagging behind women is family planning — and the data is damning.

In Karnataka, over the past five years, only 3,588 men have undergone vasectomy, a simple and safe procedure for permanent male sterilisation. While women line up in lakhs every year for sterilisation surgeries, men continue to shy away, leaving the burden of surgical contraception squarely on their wives' shoulders.

Experts said that despite multiple awareness campaigns and appeals by doctors encouraging men to "protect their partner's health by taking responsibility", most continue to say no to vasectomy.

According to internal reports from the state health department, doctors consistently face refusal or hesitation when suggesting the procedure — even when men have completed their families.

"We often tell husbands to come forward so their wives don't have to go through a second surgery post childbirth. But the response is poor," laments a senior official.

> **"If men stepped up and got a vasectomy, their wives wouldn't need to undergo another invasive procedure so soon after childbirth**
> — Gynaecologist

Women bear the pain — again

Each year, lakhs of women in Karnataka undergo laparoscopic tubectomies or abdominal sterilisation surgeries, often within weeks of delivering a baby. For women who've undergone C-section deliveries, tubectomy is done within seven days;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

BBMP is painting the lakes green?

As several lakes in city turn green after restoration, experts warn this indicates excessive growth of bacteria

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Researchers and lake activists have expressed concerns about lakes across Bengaluru becoming greener. The issue has taken centre stage after residents and lake walkers at Harlaur Lake in South Bengaluru were left intrigued by the lush green colour of the water body a couple of days ago.

"The water started turning green nearly two weeks ago and has now become completely green. We were surprised to see this transformation as the lake was recently rejuvenated," said Rupal Ralph, a resident of the area.

According to Priyanka Jamwal, Programme Lead (Water and Society programme) and Senior Fellow, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), a majority of the lakes in the city that have been rejuvenated by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) wear the same look, more or less.

But this is not good algae. The green colour of these lakes is due to the excessive growth of a tiny organism, cyanobacteria,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Cultural offering

Natanam School of Dance presents Acharya Devo Bhava, a Bharatanatyam performance by Dr Raksha and her disciples, celebrating the timeless spirit of the Guru. **Where: Vyoma Art Space, JP Nagar; When: July 13, 5.00 pm**

02 Craft bazaar

Experience Bengaluru Utsava, a curated exhibition-cum-sale of art, handloom, handicrafts, and lifestyle products from across India. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; When: July 11–27**

03 Comedy night

LOL @ Urban Solace presents a laughter-filled evening hosted by Shankar Chugani, featuring some of Bengaluru's most popular comedians. **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul; When: July 16, 8 pm – 9.30 pm**

04 Poetry evening

Tuesdays with the Bard, India's longest-running poetry event (Limca Book of Records), featuring soulful verses and fresh voices at Urban Solace. **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul When: July 15, 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm**

05 Young stages

Ranga Shankara presents the 15th edition of AHA! Theatre for Children Festival featuring plays from India and abroad on themes of courage, play, and imagination. **Where: Ranga Shankara; When: July 15–19, 7:30 pm**

State cracks down on online betting menace

New bill to regulate online gambling distinguishes skill-based gaming, imposes strict penalties on illegal platforms, and aims to protect youth and digital consumers

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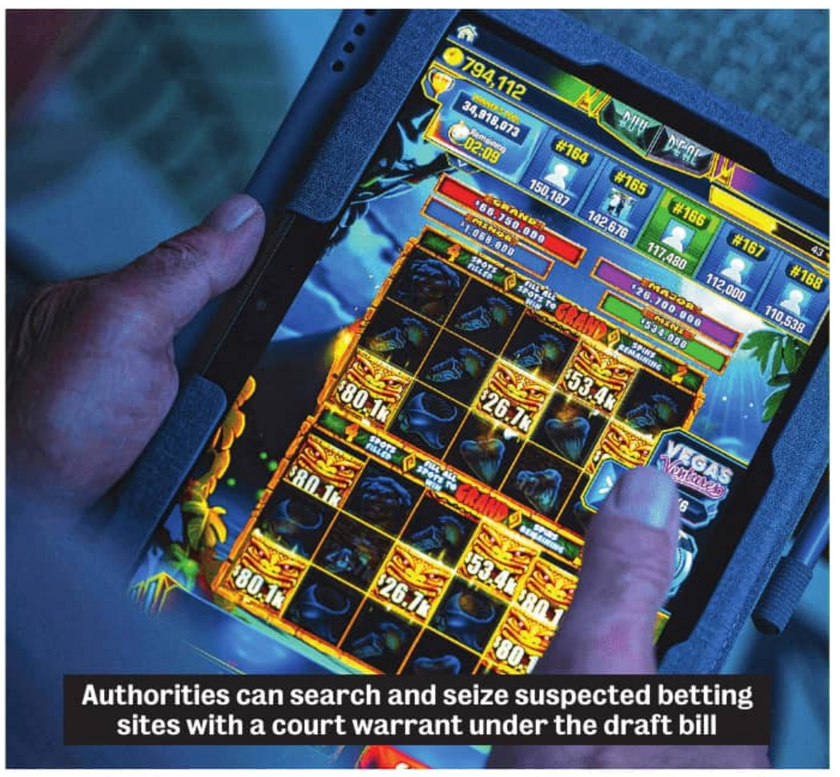

Authorities can search and seize suspected betting sites with a court warrant under the draft bill

The increasing addiction to mobile phones and the widespread availability of betting apps have led to a surge in online gambling, particularly through cricket betting platforms, online casinos, and unregulated gaming apps that lure users with the promise of easy money. In response, the Karnataka government has drafted the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which aims to regulate the digital gaming space and will be tabled in the upcoming legislative session.

Despite earlier efforts to curb illegal betting, the state has seen a concerning uptick in such cases. Karnataka registered 492 cases in 2023, which dropped to 382 in 2024. However, just within the first three months of 2025, 23 new cases have already been filed, signalling a resurgence.

A key provision of the new bill is a clear legal distinction between "games of chance" and "games of skill." Skill-based gaming platforms—where outcomes depend primarily on a player's strategy, ability, or knowledge—will be exempt from the ban. This safeguard is intended to support legitimate online games, professional e-sports, and other lawful digital gaming formats.

To oversee implementation, the bill proposes the formation of the Karnataka Online Gaming and Betting Regulatory Authority, which will grant licenses to qualified platforms, ensure compliance, and take action against violators. The body will comprise a chairperson with expertise in law, public administration, or technology, along with three members representing the IT, finance, and social welfare sectors.

Unregistered platforms operating without licenses will face criminal penalties—including up to three years of imprisonment and fines up to ₹1 lakh, increasing to ₹5 lakh for repeat offenses. Individuals or entities promoting illegal betting apps—via advertisements, influencer endorsements, or social media—may be fined ₹10,000 and face up to six months in jail.

The bill follows national headlines involving celebrities endorsing unregulated platforms. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) recently booked a money laundering case under the PMLA against over two dozen public figures—including actors Vijay Deverakonda, Rana Daggubati, and Prakash Raj—for allegedly promoting illegal betting sites like Junglee Rummy, JeetWin, and Lotus365. The case is based on five FIRs filed by the Telangana police. While some celebrities claimed they were unaware of the illegality, investigations are ongoing.

The draft bill also grants authorities the power to search, seize, and audit documents, servers, or locations linked to suspected operators after obtaining a court warrant. Affected parties can appeal the authority's orders within 30 days. Special courts will be set up to ensure faster resolution of such offenses.

> **"Skill-based platforms like e-sports and educational games will remain unaffected, safeguarding professional players and tech-driven gaming enterprises**
> – Karnataka Law Department

Importantly, the bill emphasises consumer protection, particularly for vulnerable users. Licensed platforms must provide self-regulatory tools like spending caps and addiction warnings, along with mandatory quarterly compliance reports. Public awareness campaigns and a 24/7 helpline will be launched to support users facing financial or psychological distress due to gaming.

By introducing this bill, Karnataka aims to strike a balance between digital innovation and public welfare—positioning itself as one of the first states to take a comprehensive approach to regulating the fast-evolving online gaming ecosystem.

Unequal language policy draws concern

Amid discussions on a two-language policy, school associations on Saturday urged the government to retain the Three Language Policy and reform the SSLC language evaluation system. The Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka called for a level playing field to help students compete nationally and globally.

Association secretary D Shashi Kumar said, "This appeal follows Maharashtra's reversal on making Hindi mandatory as a third language after public pushback. The episode highlights a crucial lesson — language policies must be student-centric, constitutionally valid, and free from political influence or imposition."

He said the Three Language Model is effectively implemented across the country by CBSE, ICSE, Navodaya, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Army Schools, and several state boards — including in Karnataka. This approach promotes linguistic fluency and academic competence, especially when students are exposed to a diverse mix that includes their mother tongue, national, and even foreign languages.

"However, Karnataka's own State Board students face an uneven playing field," Kumar said. "It is the only state where the First Language paper in the SSLC exam is evaluated for 125 marks, while all other boards across India cap this at 100. This discrepancy puts unnecessary pressure on students and raises serious concerns about equity and fairness." He added that political resistance to the Three Language Policy has further widened the gap between State Board students and their peers in national boards. "While CBSE and ICSE students benefit from flexible, inclusive language options, State Board students in Karnataka are denied the same opportunity," Kumar noted. **— BMB**

Toll hike: Notice to NICE

The Public Works Department (PWD) has issued a notice to Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) for revising toll rates by 7.5% without prior government approval. The increased rates, effective from July 1, apply to the 44-km Peripheral Ring Road and Link Road and have drawn sharp criticism from motorists over the steep hike. In a notice dated July 8, the PWD stated that, under the agreement, any revision in toll charges requires mandatory approval from the state government. The department warned that unilateral changes violate the terms of the agreement. However, NICE Managing Director Ashok Kheny defended the decision, stating that the 1994 agreement allows for an annual toll hike of up to 10%, and the company had increased rates conservatively by only 7.5% in line with inflation and operational costs. **— BMB**

RTI awareness may enter college syllabi

To strengthen transparency and the effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Karnataka State Information Commission has recommended including RTI in undergraduate and pre-university syllabi. The aim is to raise awareness among students about their right to access information and reduce misuse of the Act. In a recent high-level meeting chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, the Commission emphasised the need to educate both students and government staff, and submitted its recommendations to Chief Secretary Dr Shalini Rajneesh.

Despite the RTI Act completing two decades, many government officials remain unaware of its scope and application. The Karnataka State Information Commission has urged the government to address staff shortages, revise pay scales, and ensure proper training through institutions like the Mysuru District Training Centre and the Administrative Training Institute in Bengaluru. It also recommended making RTI module clearance mandatory for promotions and salary revisions, and called for full control of the RTI dashboard to be handed over to the Commission. **— BMB**

CRIME FILES

Police nab man for voyeurism

Kadugodi police have arrested a 24-year-old man for allegedly recording a video of a 29-year-old woman and her minor daughter while they were bathing at their residence. The accused, identified as Moinuddin, reportedly filmed the duo through a bathroom window using his mobile phone.

The incident took place around 6:30 am on July 8. According to police, the young girl noticed the man near the window and alerted her mother. As the woman stepped out to confront the intruder, her husband spotted the accused fleeing the scene. The family immediately lodged a complaint with the Kadugodi police, who launched an investigation and soon apprehended Moinuddin. He was reportedly working as an electrician in the area and lived near the complainant's house.

Upon arrest, the police recovered the accused's mobile phone and confirmed that the video had been deleted. A case has been registered against him under relevant sections of the law. Moinuddin has since been remanded to judicial custody.

Youth stabbed over ₹1,000 dispute

A youth was stabbed near a juice centre in Nelamangala during a scuffle over a financial dispute. The incident occurred near Vinayaka Juice Centre when a verbal argument escalated between two groups. Chetan, a resident of Renuka Nagar, was allegedly stabbed by Tejas of Vinayaka Nagar when he attempted to mediate the quarrel.

The victims have been identified as Sudeep, an employee at a local juice shop, and his friend Chetan. According to police, Sudeep had been in a relationship with a young woman for two years, but the couple had broken up a few months ago. During the relationship, Sudeep had transferred ₹2,000 to her.

Following the breakup, he requested that she return the amount. While she repaid ₹1,000, the remaining ₹1,000 remained unpaid, prompting Sudeep to call and ask her for it.

This led to tensions, and three days ago, a group of youths, reportedly acquaintances of the woman, confronted Sudeep near the juice shop.

During the heated argument, Tejas stabbed Chetan in the stomach. Sudeep also suffered minor injuries while attempting to intervene. Chetan was rushed to a private hospital in Bengaluru and remains in critical condition.

The attackers then fled the scene. Both victims sustained severe injuries and were rushed to a hospital in Bengaluru.

The entire incident, including the bike the accused arrived on, was captured on CCTV. Tejas and Gajendra are currently absconding.

Nelamangala Town Police have registered a case under Sections 352 and 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and have launched a manhunt for the absconding accused.

Fraud link: Fake lawyer held

The Basaveshwara Nagar police have arrested a man posing as a lawyer who attempted to obstruct police proceedings in a high-profile ₹30 crore fraud case involving two accused who cheated several women under the pretext of offering gold at discounted rates.

The accused, Yoganand (52), a resident of Rajajinagar Phase 4, falsely claimed to be the legal representative of Savita, one of the prime accused in the scam. Yoganand arrived at the police station demanding to know the basis of Savita's arrest and attempted to seize a lock from her house. When officers intervened, he threatened them.

Inspector Govindaraj of KP Agrahara police station, who was present at the scene, identified Yoganand from a past case involving the assault of an elderly woman. Upon questioning, police discovered that Yoganand had no legal credentials and was not a practising lawyer. He has been arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

The background of the case involves Savita (49) and her accomplice Puneeth (28), who were arrested for cheating over 20 women of approximately ₹30 crore. Posing as relatives of influential politicians, the duo lured victims, many of whom were met at kitty parties, by promising access to low-cost gold imports and high returns on investments.

The case came to light after Kusuma, a victim who lost ₹95 lakh, filed a complaint. Police are continuing investigations to identify more victims and recover the defrauded money.

Mobile phone recovered from prisoner's stomach

Doctors in a government hospital have removed a mobile phone from a prisoner's stomach, which he had swallowed, police said on Saturday. After the recovery of the phone recently, officials have ordered an investigation into how the prohibited item entered the high-security facility. A criminal case has also been registered against the prisoner under the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita. The convict, Daulath alias Gunda (30), is serving a 10-year sentence.

On June 24, he complained of stomach pain and informed the prison medical staff that he had swallowed something.

Student shares video before death

A 21-year-old architecture student committed suicide after recording a video and sharing it on his college's WhatsApp group. The deceased, identified as Arun C, a final-year student of Reva College, Yelahanka, hailed from Holenarasipura in Hassan district. The incident took place at his residence in Nandaramaiahnapalya village near Nelamangala.

Arun was found dead in his room under distressing circumstances when no one was at home. Prior to the act, he recorded a video detailing the emotional turmoil he had been facing. In the video, Arun revealed he had been struggling mentally for over a year and felt unsupported by those around him. He alleged being mocked and ignored by his peers, stating that despite trying to speak out, his problems were brushed off or ridiculed.

"Everyone understands but talks behind your back. I shared my problems for over a year, but people just thought I was being dramatic," Arun said in the video. He ended the message by apologising to his parents and asking others to "not do bad to anyone."

His body was sent for postmortem at the Nelamangala Government General Hospital and later handed over to his family. The Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case and are investigating the matter.

ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿನ

ಶ್ರೀ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಣರಾವ ಜಾರಕಿಹೊಳಿ ಕಲಾ, ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
ವಿದ್ಯಾನಗರ, ಗೋಕಾಕ-591307 ಜಿ: ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ (ST) ಅಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ

ಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ

ಸನ್ 1994-95 ರ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಗೊಂಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಇಡಿ 551 ಯುಎಫ್‌ಸಿ 99 ದಿನಾಂಕ 07-08-2003 ರನ್ವಯ "ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಅನುದಾನ"ಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡಲಿರುವ ನಮ್ಮ ಪದವಿ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೋಧಕೇತರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೋಧಕರು

ಅ.ಸಂ.	ವಿಷಯ	ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ	ವೇತನ ಶ್ರೇಣಿ
1	ಕನ್ನಡ	08	M.A., NET/SET/Ph.D.	ಯು.ಜಿ.ಸಿ (UGC) ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳ ಅನುಸಾರ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು
2	ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ	08	M.A., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
3	ಹಿಂದಿ	02	M.A., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
4	ಇತಿಹಾಸ	08	M.A., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
5	ರಾಜ್ಯಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ	08	M.A., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
6	ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ	04	M.A., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
7	ಅರ್ಥಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ	02	M.A., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
8	ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ	06	M.Com., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
9	ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ	06	M.Sc., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
10	ರಸಾಯನಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ	06	M.Sc., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
11	ಗಣಿತ	06	M.Sc., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
12	ಸಸ್ಯಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ	04	M.Sc., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
13	ಪ್ರಾಣಿಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ	04	M.Sc., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
14	ದೈಹಿಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು	02	M.PEd., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
15	ಗ್ರಂಥಪಾಲಕರು	02	M.Lib., NET/SET/Ph.D.	
	ಬೋಧಕೇತರರು			
16	ಕಛೇರಿ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು	04	ಯಾವುದೇ ಪದವಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	
17	ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು	04	ಯಾವುದೇ ಪದವಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	
18	ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು	08	ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪಿ.ಯು.ಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	
19	ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚುಗಾರರು	04	ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪಿ.ಯು.ಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ ಸೀನಿಯರ್ ಟೈಪ ರೈಟಿಂಗ್ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	
20	ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯ ಸಹಾಯಕರು	12	ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪಿ.ಯು.ಸಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಿಭಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	
21	ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಸಹಾಯಕರು	06	B.Lib ಪದವಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	

ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 55%ರಷ್ಟು ಅಂಕ ಪಡೆದು ತೇರ್ಗಡೆಯಾಗಿರಬೇಕು
(ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ & ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದವರು ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 50%ರಷ್ಟು ಅಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದಿರಬೇಕು)

ಆಸಕ್ತರು ದಿನಾಂಕ 23-07-2025 ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ chairmanletgokak@gmail.com ಈ-ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವ-ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳ ಛಾಯಾ ಪ್ರತಿಗಳನ್ನು (Photo copy) ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸಂದರ್ಶನದ ವೇಳೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮೂಲ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಜರಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು. ಎಲ್ಲ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಹತೆ, ವಯೋಮಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಅನ್ವಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳಂತೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-07-2025 • ಸ್ಥಳ: ಎಲ್.ಇ.ಟಿ. ಕಾಲೇಜು ವಿದ್ಯಾನಗರ, ಗೋಕಾಕ • ವೇಳೆ: ಮುಂ. 09.00 ಘಂಟೆ.
ಸಂದರ್ಶನವನ್ನು ಮೌಖಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾದರಿ ಪಾಠ ಬೋಧನೆ (Demo Lesson) ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
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ಗೋಕಾಕ
12-07-2025

ಶ್ರೀ ಸನತ್ ಜಾರಕಿಹೊಳಿ
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ

ಡಾ॥ ಭಾಮತಿ ಜಾರಕಿಹೊಳಿ
ಚೇರಮನ್ನರು, ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ

NAAC GRADE A+ ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY

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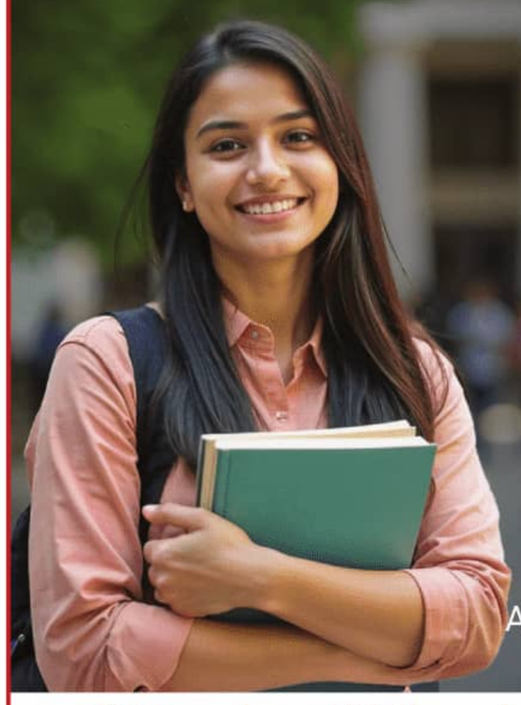

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New solar order brightens apartment energy plans

KERC removes key roadblocks for rooftop and ground-mounted solar, enabling housing societies to scale clean energy without red tape or PPAs

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The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission's (KERC) recent order on domestic solar projects has paved the way for apartment associations in the city to go the solar way. The new tariff order issued on July 9 allows ground-mounted solar panels with elevated structures of at least 8 feet above the ground and the integration of solar panels in building façades, too. The order is effective from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

Residential apartment complexes in the city are overjoyed with this recent development.

Sobha Petunia apartment in Nagavara is one such residential society. According to Kazi Zaman, former secretary of the Sobha Petunia Apartment Owners' Association and current member of its solar subcommittee, the society is already planning to add solar panels with a capacity of nearly 80 kWp to its existing capacity.

"We installed solar panels of 50 kWp capacity in 2021 on one of the three towers of the society. We wanted to increase the capacity further, as we were able to meet only one-third of the electricity requirement for common areas' amenities with 50 kWp. However, with only one BESCOM meter, we could never do so. However, the recent order has opened the door for us to install panels on the remaining two towers as well," said Zaman.

SRTPV is now renamed DSPV, allowing net or gross metering and wider installation options, including facades and elevated structures

"The order provides clear guidelines for metering, connectivity, and installation standards, fulfilling our demand for rooftop, façade, and elevated solar panels. It simplifies processes, offering major relief to apartments

– N Satish Mallya, Vice President, Bangalore Apartment Federation

Since the installation of SRTPV under net metering or gross metering arrangements is not just limited to the roof of buildings but is now extended to ground-mounted Distributed Solar PV projects with elevated structures and façade-integrated solar panels on the walls within the premises, the "Solar Roof Top PV (SRTPV) plants" is now renamed "Distributed Solar PV (DSPV) Plants" with net metering or gross metering arrangements.

As per the new order, the requirement of a PPA for domestic setups up to 150 kW has also been eliminated. There is no empanelled vendor restriction. Moreover, panels up to the sanctioned load are allowed.

"The order has provided clear guidelines on metering, grid connectivity, energy accounting, and standards for installations of solar panels. It fulfils our long-standing demand for the installation of solar panels on rooftops, elevated structures, and building façades. This process simplification will provide major relief for the apartment community," said Satish Mallya, Vice President, Bangalore Apartment Federation.

Associations say this development will lead to more residential societies, with a shortage of rooftop area, adopting solar energy.

"Apartments generally have limited rooftop area. However, now panels can be installed over car parking areas too. Moreover, in case of projects below 150 kWp, all that the applicant needs to do is apply online on the central portal, and a deemed approval will arrive soon. Many apartment complexes in the city will go for DSPV," said a member of an apartment association in Yelahanka.

Renewables, rail, rooftops: Emission cuts ahead

System dynamics model by CSTEP shows how electrification, solar irrigation, and energy reforms can power Karnataka's journey to a low-carbon future

Karnataka's greenhouse gas emissions are projected to exceed 400 million tonnes (MT) by 2050, according to a report by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP). However, the emissions can be reduced to around 50 MT through electrification, renewable energy, and demand-side interventions.

The projections were made using Namma SAFARI, CSTEP's integrated system dynamics model that supports evidence-based planning for a low-carbon and sustainable future. It analyses long-term interactions across six key sectors: energy, transport, industry, buildings, agriculture, and land use through 2050.

According to the model, Karnataka's population is expected to cross 75 million by 2050, while its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) could reach ₹128 lakh crore (at 2011 constant prices).

According to the model, Karnataka's population is expected to cross 75 million by 2050, while its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) could reach ₹128 lakh crore (at 2011 constant prices)

In the buildings sector, electricity demand is likely to account for 40% of total consumption by 2050. But adopting passive cooling, rooftop solar, and green construction could reduce this demand by 25%. Enforcing energy codes like the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) and Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) will be essential.

The industry sector, described as hard-to-abate, is projected to be the largest contributor to electricity

demand and emissions. The report recommends a mandate that at least 25% of materials used in public infrastructure projects be certified green cement or steel. Preferential pricing for compliance could accelerate low-carbon industry adoption. Increased use of scrap steel could reduce iron ore demand by 35% compared to the reference scenario.

Agriculture, which currently consumes nearly 30% of the state's electricity, could reduce grid dependency through off-grid solar irrigation. Expanding minimum support price (MSP) coverage for climate-resilient crops like millets, pulses, and oilseeds—currently at just 8%—can support the transition.

In transport, shifting 33% of freight to rail by 2030 may save 50 crore litres of diesel each year. Electrification could double power demand to 54.5 TWh by 2050. Improved logistics, EV incentives, and railway investment are needed.

A renewable energy-based and storage-backed power sector could enable economy-wide decarbonisation. The agriculture, forestry, and land use (AFOLU) sector could become a carbon sink, with 14% higher sequestration through afforestation and natural farming.

The report concludes with a set of 2030-ready policy levers aligned with national schemes, aiming to ensure Karnataka's transition is not only low-carbon, but also just, inclusive, and economically sound.

— BMB

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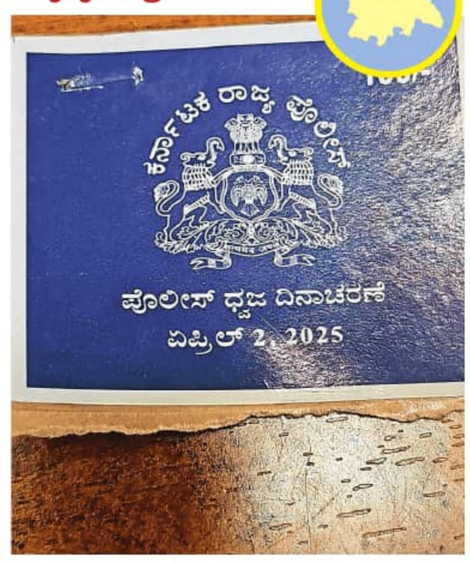
Rajajinagar



Several Rajajinagar traders allege that local police are forcing them to buy unclear-purpose stamps—some nearly three months old—raising serious questions about their relevance and legitimacy.

Debris trouble

Frazer Town

Though drainage pipe work was completed a week ago on Ahmed Sait Road, Frazer Town, workers left behind debris and spare pipes at a building's entrance, blocking access and causing major inconvenience to residents.

Green loss

Gandhinagar

Residents of Kalidasa Marg, Gandhinagar, are alarmed by indiscriminate tree cutting for new construction. They question the absence of environmental concern in this already congested part of Bengaluru's Majestic area.

Above the law, one floor at a time

Rampant building violations continue unchecked as officials cite lack of resources, despite court orders and demolition notices; locals raise safety and legal concerns

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Cooke Town has witnessed a decade-long surge in blatant building violations. Builders routinely flout regulations by eliminating mandatory setbacks and constructing additional floors without securing the required permissions or approvals. Even as the Supreme Court has issued clear guidelines on curbing illegal construction, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) appears unwilling to act against blatant building violations in the city. "In Cooke Town alone, 26 buildings have been identified as gross violators, yet action has been taken against just one, and that too, only as a token gesture," says Raja Shanmugam, resident.

The only building to face any form of action had constructed three additional floors beyond the sanctioned plan. Even here, the BBMP's "demolition" was limited to punching holes through the offending floors, while ignoring other critical violations. "The rest of the building still completely breaks the rules, with no proper setbacks, illegal commercial use, parking areas turned into shops, and misused basements. Yet, no action has been taken against it, despite several complaints to the authorities," says Reuben Denga, another resident.

Construction and occupancy continue unhindered in the other 25 buildings, even though the BBMP itself has issued demolition notices for them. "What exactly is happening here?" residents ask, as violators proceed with sales and rentals in complete disregard for the law.

> **In Cooke Town alone, 26 buildings have been indentified as gross violators, yet action has been taken against just one, and that too, only as a token gesture** –Raja S, resident

When residents questioned, the Zonal Commissioner (East) reportedly claimed that the department lacks resources to carry out large-scale demolitions. She further stated that her team is currently focusing only on floor-level violations, excluding even 100% setbacks and usage violations. Residents say she advised them to approach the High Court and obtain directions if they wanted any further action on setbacks.

"This response not only undermines the BBMP's legal obligations, but also emboldens builders to proceed with further illegal constructions," said Raja.

RTI responses and Lokayukta complaints filed by citizens show that the BBMP has been consistently negligent, amounting to dereliction of duty.

Despite the Supreme Court's order to disconnect utility services to such buildings until violations are corrected, most enjoy uninterrupted BESCOM and BWSSB connections. BESCOM initially acted on disconnections, but now claims helplessness due to coordinated stays taken by builders, many of whom are listed before the same judge. BWSSB, meanwhile, has delayed even issuing notices.

Adding to the civic chaos, many of these buildings have constructed illegal ramps and slopes over public footpaths, blocking pedestrian access. Though formal representations were made and the former BBMP Chief Commissioner ordered their removal in February, the structures remain untouched and new ones are being built.

A few residents file cases against neighbours over setback violations, citing blocked light, air, and safety risks. Despite HC orders, builders and BBMP continue work after minor, cosmetic changes.

With the new GBA Act provisions and fragmented administration, residents fear that violations will only worsen, becoming more rampant, localised, and harder to challenge. Raja, who has been actively trying to stop these violations, has so far identified at least 6 to 7 newly constructed houses where extra floors have been added illegally. "Instead of me just raising the complaints against these buildings, we are trying to work with BBMP's notices, which list out these illegal floors and where warnings and demolition notices have been issued," he said.

As a result, the number of commercial and residential units far exceeds what is allowed under town planning norms. This unchecked expansion is putting immense strain on the area's infrastructure. BM tried to contact East Zonal Commissioner Snehal R, but failed to connect.

Transfer pleas not welcome

City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh has strictly instructed police personnel not to visit his office unnecessarily seeking transfers. Speaking at the monthly parade, the Commissioner stated that if officers have genuine issues, they should first bring them to the notice of their respective DCPs. Only if the matter remains unresolved at that level should they approach him. He assured that any legitimate grievances would be addressed without delay.

Emphasising the importance of discipline, the Commissioner urged staff to maintain physical fitness through regular exercise and committed duty. He highlighted that he is aware of departmental issues and that necessary matters are brought to the government's attention for resolution. Officers must use the government-provided facilities wisely and carry out responsibilities like traffic management and night patrolling efficiently. He warned that disciplinary action would be taken without hesitation if any officer is found neglecting duties or involved in misconduct. **–BMB**

Leopard found dead

A leopard's carcass was found at a stone quarry in an area near Kothalavadi village, which falls under the jurisdiction of BRT Tiger Reserve, officials said on Saturday.

The male leopard, which was around five to six years old, should have been poisoned to death, they suspect.

According to the forest department, the carcasses of a dog and a calf were found near the carcass of the leopard on Thursday. **–PTI**

Lack of maternal care kills 3 tiger cubs after birth at BBP

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Three tiger cubs have been reported dead at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) between July 8 and July 9. According to BBP officials, tigress Hima Das gave birth to three cubs on July 7. However, she refused to provide care after the birth. Over the next couple of days after birth, all three cubs were injured.

One male cub died due to cervical injury following a stampede, whereas the other male cub died due to a bite on the head by the mother, leading to injury to brain tissue and a meningeal hematoma. Stampede injuries were reported in the female cub as well.

All three cubs die despite intensive medical care

> **It is natural for mother to take care of the cubs. However, when in captivity, many times the cubs are abandoned by their mothers due to lack of maternal instincts** –BBP official

"It is natural for a mother to take care of the cubs. However, when in captivity, many times the cubs are abandoned by their mothers due to a lack of maternal instincts. In such cases, they are hand-reared at the zoo hospital," said a BBP official.

After sustaining injuries, the cubs were shifted to the BBP hospital for intensive care and hand-rearing. However, despite all interventions by doctors, the cubs did not survive. While one male cub died on July 8, the other male and one female cub passed away on July 9. A post-mortem was conducted by the BBP veterinary team.

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Tumakuru gears up to become India's next big IT hub

Backed by officials and entrepreneurs, Tumakuru aims to rival Bengaluru by attracting IT firms and transforming its dynamic digital ecosystem

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Efforts underway to reduce commute and boost local jobs by bringing IT firms to Tumakuru

While Bengaluru has long enjoyed the status of India's Silicon Valley, the competition is now coming not only from rival metros like Hyderabad and Gurugram but also from its own backyard — cities like Tumakuru, which are rapidly stepping up to attract Information Technology (IT) investments.

In a move to position Tumakuru as the next IT destination, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Subha Kalyan convened a meeting with a group of IT entrepreneurs on Wednesday. The meeting, held at the DC's conference hall, focused on strategies to create a conducive environment for IT firms to set up operations in the district.

Highlighting Tumakuru's current contribution to the tech workforce, the DC said, "Around 4,000 professionals from Tumakuru are already working in IT companies in Bengaluru. Bringing companies here would ease their commute, improve their work-life balance, and support family life."

She added that the arrival of IT companies would open doors for local graduates holding degrees such as BSc, BE, and MCA, boosting employment and fostering homegrown talent. "Such growth will also lead to the development of critical infrastructure, including better roads, reliable power supply, and enhanced digital connectivity," she said.

> **"The arrival of IT companies would open doors for local graduates holding degrees such as BSc, BE, and MCA, boosting employment and fostering homegrown talent** –Deputy Commissioner Subha Kalyan

The initiative is being seen as a long-term roadmap for economic and educational growth. Colleges and training institutions in Tumakuru may begin offering IT-focused courses, which would enhance the region's skill ecosystem and foster digital literacy. Officials hope this push will lay the groundwork for a decade of transformation, particularly in cyber awareness and employment generation.

As part of the broader effort, a 36-member delegation of IT entrepreneurs toured key infrastructure sites to assess readiness. The team visited a 2,000-square-foot facility at the MG Sports Complex and also evaluated the district library as a possible site for adaptive reuse. Members of the delegation voiced support for the initiative, emphasising that integrating technology into daily life can uplift communities.

"Digital access is no longer a luxury but a fundamental requirement for inclusive growth," said one of the visiting entrepreneurs. The team also highlighted the potential for women's empowerment and bridging social divides through digital outreach.

Meanwhile, analysts warn that Bengaluru's dominance in the IT sector may face challenges. With rising real estate costs, traffic congestion, and mounting pressure on civic infrastructure, companies are looking for more viable and cost-effective alternatives.

"Tumakuru's strategic push, with strong administrative backing and growing infrastructure, makes it a serious contender," said an analyst. "The real question is whether Bengaluru can evolve fast enough or be overtaken by upcoming hubs just next door."

Officials silent as trees burn in Kodagu's protected forest area

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> **"Failure to file a report on the illegal felling and burning of trees is a grave failure** –Wildlife conservationist

After a year, a report is yet to be submitted on the illegal felling and burning of thousands of trees in Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary. Despite growing concern, authorities including the Karnataka Forest Department remain silent, raising questions about accountability and what exactly went wrong in the incident which took place in June last year.

The case, currently pending before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), has seen little to no response from key respondents. The Southern Bench recently noted that none of the authorities involved have submitted their reports or replies so far.

The NGT's Principal Bench had taken suo motu cognizance of the matter in July 2024 after widespread media coverage. It had impleaded the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka, along with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), its Regional Office, and the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Kodagu as respondents in the case.

The tribunal observed violations under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, despite clear directives, no formal reports have been filed, raising questions about the seriousness of the government's response.

NGT flagged violations of key environmental laws, yet authorities remain unresponsive months after the disaster

Following the incident, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre ordered a departmental probe, and an FIR was registered. Yet, over a year later, neither the findings of the investigation nor any update has been made public.

Environmentalists and wildlife activists have expressed alarm at the inaction. The Kodagu district has long faced ecological stress, including severe droughts, making the destruction of forest cover even more critical.

The affected area falls in the Mundrote Range of the Padinalkunadu Reserve Forest, part of the larger Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, which is also a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Conservationists stress that the forest is a biodiversity hotspot, home to countless endemic plant species and wildlife.

"This is a serious offence. Over five acres of reserve forest have reportedly been cleared. At the very least, the Forest Department should have filed a preliminary report, as directed by the NGT," said a local wildlife conservationist.

The prolonged silence from authorities is now being seen as a systemic failure to protect one of Karnataka's most ecologically sensitive zones.

Malabar Dormouse seen in Ghats again

A team of scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has rediscovered the elusive Malabar spiny dormouse, a species known as a "living fossil," in the forests of the Western Ghats.

Found only in this biodiversity hotspot, Platacanthomys lasiurus was first described in 1859. Now, for the first time in 166 years, scientists have created DNA barcodes to trace its genetic lineage and evolutionary history using advanced biotechnology.

The discovery was made during a survey in Suryamudi, Kerala. The specimen has been preserved at the National Zoological Repository in Pune for future study.

The breakthrough is a result of collaboration between ZSI's regional centres in Pune, Kozhikode, and Chennai. Experts have warned that habitat degradation in the Western Ghats poses a serious threat to the survival of this rare species. **–BMB**

FASTag offenders face blacklist

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has warned that vehicles travelling on national highways without a properly affixed FASTag will be blacklisted.

The tag must be firmly stuck on the front windshield, as handheld use disrupts automated toll collection and slows traffic at toll plazas. Despite repeated instructions, some motorists continue to flout the rule by presenting the tag in hand, an NHAI official said.

To ensure smooth operations and reduce congestion, toll operators have been directed to identify violators and take necessary action. Vehicles not complying may be denied access, blacklisted from the toll system, and penalised.

The move aims to enforce discipline and improve FASTag efficiency nationwide. **–BMB**

Karnataka's 100-Day mosquito drive

To curb the rising cases of dengue and chikungunya across Karnataka, the state government has launched a 100-day mosquito eradication campaign.

As part of the drive, 1,500 volunteers will be deployed statewide to target mosquito larvae at water sources. Each worker will receive a daily wage of ₹400.

The health department has sanctioned a budget of ₹7.25 crore, with ₹6 crore allocated for wages and the remainder for additional disease-control measures.

The campaign will be carried out at local, district, and taluk levels, focusing on larval destruction to curb mosquito breeding. **–BMB**

THE SUNDAY READ

Hard takeoff

Fear, land price spikes, and policy challenges stall momentum despite early groundwork on new airport for city

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Three sites in consideration: Kaggalipura and Harohalli along the Kanakapura Road, and Chikkasolur near the Nelamangala–Kunigal stretch

As Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport rapidly approaches capacity, the state government has taken the first step towards identifying a site for the city's second international airport. But what appears on the surface as a straightforward planning exercise has quickly evolved into a maze of bureaucratic hurdles, community unrest, legal restrictions, and market unpredictability. The process of identifying a second airport is proving to be anything but easy.

Three sites, many dilemmas

Officials from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have zeroed in on three potential sites for the second airport — Kaggalipura and Harohalli along the Kanakapura Road, and Chikkasolur near the Nelamangala-Kunigal stretch. While these locations are strategically positioned to cater to southern and western Bengaluru, none of them has been finalised yet. The uncertainty has cast a shadow over the future of these regions, stalling development and creating a deep sense of anxiety among residents.

Between policy locks and a ticking clock

A major roadblock is a pre-existing agreement between Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) and the Central Government, which bars any new international airport within a 150-km radius of the Kempegowda Airport until 2033. While this clause delays construction, the government wants to get a head-start on land acquisition, environmental clearances, and resettlement planning — a process that takes several years. Hence, identifying land now could ensure the airport is operational by the time the non-compete clause lapses.

Cloud over rural communities

For villagers living in the shortlisted zones, the prospect of a new airport isn't a cause for celebration. Instead, it has created panic. Many fear losing their agricultural land, ancestral homes, and cultural roots. With no clear indication of which site will be chosen, uncertainty has gripped entire communities. Construction has halted on several partially built homes. Farmers have paused cultivation. Even beneficiaries of government housing schemes are unsure whether to proceed with construction, fearing displacement.

Local development has hit a standstill. Builders and homebuyers who had plans are unsure whether to continue or abandon projects. State support schemes for rural housing are going underutilised. In some areas, farming has ceased altogether as locals wait for clarity. In short, the mere mention of a possible airport has frozen activity — but without finality, it's paralyzing rather than productive.

Government is well aware that selecting the wrong site or rushing the process could ignite public protests

Soaring land prices

A villager said, "Ironically, even as uncertainty looms, land prices in the vicinity have doubled. Agricultural plots once priced at ₹2 crore an acre are now selling for over ₹4 crore. Speculative real estate investors, sensing an opportunity, are eyeing the area — but hesitating to strike deals until a location is finalised. This speculative surge has driven prices up but brought transactions to a near halt. Landowners in need of cash, whether for weddings or medical emergencies, are now struggling to sell, caught between a rock and a speculative bubble."

No green light

Despite initial site surveys, the AAI has not yet submitted its report. Without that crucial input, the state cannot proceed with a detailed project report (DPR) or conduct a comprehensive feasibility study. Once the site is finalised, consultations with airport development firms will begin, followed by land acquisition notifications and resettlement compensation planning. The road ahead is long and filled with legal, logistical, and emotional potholes.

A senior official who confirmed the identification of the three locations, remains cautious. The government is well aware that selecting the wrong site or rushing the process could ignite public protests, trigger legal battles, or lead to policy violations. At stake is not just connectivity — but the trust of thousands who live in the potential impact zones.

In essence, the search for Bengaluru's second airport site reflects the complexity of modern infrastructure development — where economic vision collides with local realities, policy frameworks, and the unpredictable pulse of land markets. It may be years before bulldozers arrive, but for now, the biggest hurdle is choosing where they'll go.

Visit next week

Regarding the construction of a second international airport in Bengaluru, Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil said, "I will be visiting Delhi next week to meet and hold discussions with the Union Civil Aviation Minister. By closely observing the development models of the new airports in Noida and Navi Mumbai, an appropriate decision will be taken on this matter."

"Agricultural plots once priced at Rs 2 crore an acre are now selling for over Rs 4 crore. Speculative real estate investors, sensing an opportunity, are eyeing the area — but hesitating to strike deals until a location is finalised

—Villager from one of the shortlisted sites

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

CYCLE OF RENEWAL

Our reader captures a serene image of dewdrops resting delicately on a leaf, each droplet a tiny pearl of life holding its place in nature's rhythm. This fleeting moment just before the drops fall to the ground, merge with the soil, and rise again to the clouds beautifully reflects the eternal cycle of renewal. It's a gentle reminder of how even the smallest elements of nature quietly sustain the unbroken flow of life.

The picture was clicked by reader **Hanish Sharma**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

BTM residents exhausted as completed road mysteriously remains shut for weeks

Despite construction ending a month ago, civic apathy keeps the key BTM stretch closed, worsening traffic and frustrating daily commuters

Daily commuters and residents in BTM Layout are voicing strong concerns over the prolonged delay in opening a key road near Garuda BHIVE, adjacent to the BMTC Complex on Outer Ring Road, Old Madiwala. Despite construction work being completed nearly a month ago, the stretch remains inaccessible, causing persistent traffic snarls and inconvenience to hundreds who rely on this route every day.

The road, located near WJ88+69V and connecting parts of Kuvempu Nagar and BTM 2nd Stage, was under construction for nearly four months. Though surface-level work appears complete, barricades and other obstructions continue to block access, leaving the

stretch unusable for vehicular movement. "This is not just about inconvenience anymore it's about negligence. The road work has been completed, but we are still forced to take longer routes or remain stuck in traffic for no valid reason," said R Manoj, a resident of BTM 2nd Stage who commutes to Koramangala daily. "If the road is ready, why hasn't it been opened? What are the authorities waiting for?"

With no official communication or signage explaining the delay, the prolonged closure has led to increasing frustration among the public. Adjacent roads are bearing the brunt of the congestion, particularly during peak office hours. Commuters, students, and BMTC passengers say their daily travel time has increased by 20 to 30 minutes.

Commuters get stuck in traffic every morning due to delay in opening a key road adjacent to the BMTC Complex on Outer Ring Road

> **"Road work is complete, yet we are forced into traffic. This isn't inconvenience; it's negligence from authorities** – BR Manoj, a resident of BTM 2nd Stage

Residents allege that civic agencies, especially the BBMP, have failed to carry out final inspections or grant the necessary approvals to open the road. There is also no clarity on whether the delay stems from bureaucratic red tape or a technical issue.

"Despite multiple complaints and follow-ups, no action has been taken," said Anjali S, a shop owner near the stretch.

Locals are now calling on the BBMP and the Traffic Police Department to take swift action and reopen the road. They say if the road is ready, it must be opened immediately and if it is not, the authorities owe the public a clear explanation. **— BMB**

DID YOU KNOW?

Astronomers are closely monitoring a mysterious object, possibly the third known interstellar visitor to enter our solar system, according to the European Space Agency. The object, temporarily designated A11pl3Z, is currently near Jupiter and heading toward Mars but is not expected to come any closer to the Sun. Though harmless, its origin is raising excitement and curiosity in the scientific community. Scientists are still unsure whether A11pl3Z is a rocky asteroid or an icy comet, and its size and shape remain uncertain. NASA is continuing to track the object, while astronomers worldwide gather more data to confirm its origin. Based on its unusual path and extreme speed, astrophysicist Josep Trigo-Rodriguez from the Institute of Space Sciences in Spain believes A11pl3Z is interstellar in nature. He estimates the object is around 25 miles (40 kilometers) wide. This discovery follows two earlier confirmed interstellar objects: 'Oumuamua, found in 2017, and comet 2I/Borisov, detected in 2019. 'Oumuamua was initially classified as an asteroid but later showed comet-like behavior. Borisov, on the other hand, was clearly a comet from another star system. **— AP**

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Wind power expensive, shunned by smart countries? Not at all

President Donald Trump expressed his disdain for wind power during a recent Cabinet meeting, calling it an expensive form of energy that "smart" countries don't use. His comments on Tuesday included false and misleading claims about the cost and global use of wind power. The remarks came a day after he signed an executive order aimed at ending subsidies for renewable energy projects.

CLAIM: "Wind is a very expensive form of energy."

THE FACTS: This is incorrect. Onshore wind is actually among the cheapest sources of electricity generation today. New wind farms are projected to produce electricity at about $30 per megawatt hour, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). This compares to:

• Natural gas: ~$65 per MWh • Advanced nuclear: ~$80 per MWh • Offshore wind: ~$88 per MWh

In most U.S. regions, onshore wind farms cost less to build and operate than natural gas plants, even without tax credits. While natural gas offers consistent generation, wind energy has proven cost-effective as part of a balanced energy mix. Electricity prices have risen nationwide over the past decade. However, states that significantly invested in wind—like Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico—saw slower electricity rate increases. For instance, Iowa's wind power share grew from 15% in 2010 to nearly 60% in 2023, while electricity prices there rose more slowly than in 42 other states, according to Brendan Pierpont of the nonpartisan think tank Energy Innovation.

CLAIM: Wind turbines are "almost exclusively" made in China.

THE FACTS: China is indeed the largest global manufacturer of wind turbines, producing over half the supply and installing them rapidly. But the U.S. also has domestic production, and other countries like Denmark, Germany, and India are major contributors to the wind energy supply chain. China has 1.3 terawatts of utility-scale wind and solar capacity under development—more electricity than Japan used in all of 2023. While China continues to rely on coal, it is also rapidly expanding its zero-carbon energy portfolio, per the Global Energy Monitor.

CLAIM: "If you look at smart countries, they don't use it."

THE FACTS: This is false. Wind power is used in at least 136 countries and territories. In 2024, the top five wind energy markets were: 1. China. 2. United States, 3. Brazil, 4. India, 5. Germany. Nations like France, Spain, Sweden, Finland, and the UK have made major investments in wind power. Michael Gerrard of Columbia University said cutting back on U.S. wind development "cedes leadership to China and kills U.S. jobs."

CLAIM: Whales and birds are dying due to wind power.

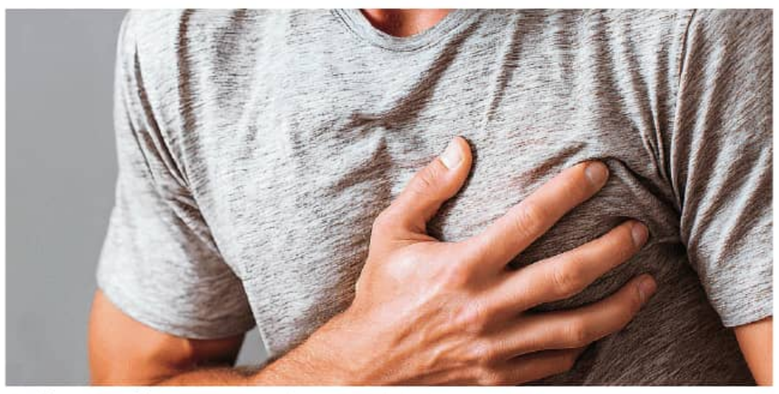
THE FACTS: There is no scientific evidence linking offshore wind projects to whale deaths, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Though turbines can affect birds, the National Audubon Society says climate change poses a greater threat and supports responsibly sited wind development.

CLAIM: Wind turbine blades can't be disposed of due to environmentalists.

THE FACTS: While turbine blades are difficult to recycle, 90% of wind turbine materials can be recycled with existing U.S. infrastructure, according to the Department of Energy. Companies like Ørsted have pledged to reuse or recycle blades rather than send them to landfills. **— AP**

Worry over heart health crowds clinics

Hospitals report rise in walk-ins as people rush for heart tests amid growing health concerns; doctors advise those without symptoms to visit local centres



Outpatient numbers rise 30% in two weeks

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

With rising concerns over heart attack cases in Karnataka, the renowned Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research has reported a record surge in patient numbers, especially for preliminary cardiac tests like ECG, TMT, and Echo. According to hospital authorities, daily outpatient numbers have jumped from 1,200–1,500 to nearly 1,800 over the past two weeks, marking an increase of 20% to 30%. Inpatient admissions have also risen from an average of 200 to 250 per day. Even Jayadeva's branch hospitals in Mysuru and Kalaburagi have seen a noticeable rise in footfall for cardiac screenings.

"There is a visible spike in walk-ins, many of whom have no symptoms but are coming in out of anxiety or for preventive checks. While this is good from a preventive standpoint, we urge people to use local hospitals for initial screenings so we can prioritise those needing advanced care," said Dr Ravindranath (Director), Jayadeva Institute.

Long queues, early arrivals

From 6 am, patients queue up for tokens. The basic diagnostic centres are overwhelmed. Even people without any health issues are crowding the hospital to "just get tested once," reflecting growing public anxiety about heart ailments. If there's even a slight abnormality in the ECG, they are opting for all recommended tests to rule out any risk. Accompanying family members are also getting tested, turning each visit into a comprehensive family check-up.

Separate counters needed

With first-time patient numbers spiking, follow-up patients are facing long delays, often waiting till afternoon to complete check-ups and consult doctors. "I've already had two stents inserted and need follow-up every six months. Today, I arrived at 6 am, finished blood and other tests, but it's already past 2 pm and I haven't met the doctor yet. Earlier, everything was done before noon. A separate counter for follow-up patients would be a big help," said Sunil, a patient.

ICU beds full

Dr Ravindranath confirmed that all ICU beds are currently full, but stressed that no patient is sent away untreated. Every outpatient who walks in is being tested thoroughly, and although there's a rise in numbers, admission figures have remained stable, with more patients also being discharged after recovery.

Youth at forefront of surge

Interestingly, many of those seen waiting for cardiac check-ups are young adults. Groups of friends are showing up together, driven by a mix of health consciousness and fear of hereditary heart disease. "I had been feeling occasional chest pain. After coming to Jayadeva and getting checked, the doctor said I'm fine. Now I feel relieved," said Amritesh from Chintamani.

Expert appeal

The hospital has advised those without symptoms to opt for initial screening at local government hospitals and visit Jayadeva only if advanced care is needed.

Fynbos shines in classic summer Derby

Ikram Khan
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Champion trainer Pesi Shroff is in with a definite chance to register the Grand Slam, fourth straight Derby success at the Bangalore Turf Club on Sunday. Last year, Santissimo from his yard powered home to wear the Derby sash following the two earlier winners, Supernatural (2022) and Jamari (2023). And this summer, his two frontline contenders, Fynbos, winner of the Fillies Championship Stakes and Red Bishop, who impressed most while finishing an eye-catching third in the Colts Trial, are ready to provide another classic feather in the hat of the top trainer.

The blue riband of the season, the Zavaray S Poonawalla Derby has attracted top 10 colts and six classy fillies claiming a statutory gender allowance of 1.5 kilos and the top filly Fynbos is likely to start the favourite in her attempt to help Pesi register the Summer Slam, while taking home a rich purse of 1.48 crore

The classy filly Fynbos, favourite to win the summer Derby

offered to the winner.

Following her facile victory in the Fillies Championship Stakes, Fynbos, racing pundits believe it has improved the most, a view endorsed by Pesi at the draw of lots and Meet the Stars evening hosted by the BTC on Thursday. Top gun Trevor Patel, who partnered the filly in the first classic of the season, has again chosen to partner her in favour of Red Bishop, and that is a definite indicator that Fynbos is in with a big chance to make it a Ladies Day Out on Sunday.

Top saddle artist Sandesh will guide the fortunes of Red Bishop. The frontline contender who was seen finishing fastest at the end in the Colts classic has maintained form, taking into account his impressive performances on the trial track and most knowledgeable are of the view that the 2000 metres classic journey suits his style. Pesi, while pointing out that a couple of top colts in the fray do have the ability to test the Queen filly Fynbo, has revealed that Red Bishop is on top of his game, and he too is in with a big shout.

Apart from the two fancied runners from Pesi's stable, the winner of the Colts Trial, Sovereign King from Adhirajsingh Jodha's yard and the local main hope, Prokofiev from the stables of leading trainer Prasanna Kumar, are the top fancies to crack the pot of gold.

Hot Derby tips

1. Inspire 1, Knotty Scotty 2, Vyasa 3.
2. Money Bags 1, Ziva 2, Mystic Charm 3.
3. Masato 1, Credence 2, Ricardo 3.
4. African Gold 1, Meropi 2, Prana 3.
5. Hermod 1, Schoenberg 2, Cigar Galaxy 3.

Day's best: Money Bags

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ashwini Prakash Kullolli w/o Shivamurteppa Pashi R/o E803 8th Floor Prince Town Apartment Shettihalli Jalahalli West Bangalore 560015 have changed my name to Ashwini Kullolli for all Purposes.

I, Ravilal Lakhamshi Patel, R/o No-284 & 285 Madhav Nivas 2nd Main Talacauvery layout Amruthahalli Sahakarnagar Bengaluru-560092 have changed my name to Ravilal Lakhamsi Dhanani vide Affidavit Dt: 03.09.13 before Notary S.Jayanna Bluru.

I, Bhavesh Ravilal Patel, R/o No-284 & 285 Madhav Nivas 2nd Main Talacauvery layout Amruthahalli Sahakarnagar Bengaluru-560092 have changed my name to Bhavesh Ravilal Dhanani vide Affidavit Dt: 03.09.13 before Notary S.Jayanna Bluru.

I, Divya Bharathi CS R/o No 18/1,12 th cross. Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Magadi road, Bengaluru 560023 have changed my minor daughter's name from Radhii B Bharatharun to Ruthwina Sri DB for all purposes.

I, Jyothi Bhavesh Patel, R/o No-284 & 285 Madhav Nivas 2nd Main Talacauvery layout Amruthahalli Sahakarnagar Bengaluru-560092 have changed my name to jyothi Bhavesh Dhanani vide Affidavit Dt: 03.09.13 before Notary S.Jayanna Bluru.

I, Prakash.M.S R/O No 289,4th C Cross,9th D Main, Hampinagar, R P C Layout, Vijayanagar,B'luru 560104 Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Purvith Prakash to Purvith Prakash Gowda.

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SHOPPING MART

Big chunk of men who undergo vasectomy widowers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for those with normal deliveries, they must wait six weeks before surgery. Either way, women are expected to endure pain, recovery, and surgical risk. Doctors argue this is avoidable. "If men stepped up and got a vasectomy, their wives wouldn't need to undergo another invasive procedure so soon after childbirth," said a senior gynaecologist.

Health officials say fear, stigma, and misinformation dominate male attitudes toward vasectomy. Some believe it affects their sexual performance — a complete myth. Others see it as emasculating. A fraction even react angrily when doctors bring it up. Ironically, 80% of those who do opt for vasectomy are either widowers or men who share a deeply emotional bond with their wives — a small but telling statistic.

Many men, even after having children, prefer temporary contraceptive methods over vasectomy. "They rely on women taking pills, getting injections, or intrauterine devices, all of which can have long-term side effects," explains a health committee report. Meanwhile, women face the brunt — suffering from anaemia, pregnancy complications, and the emotional toll of repeated procedures, especially in rural and economically weaker sections.

Gentle nudge with cash incentives

The government offers cash incentives to encourage the procedure by paying ₹1,100 for the man undergoing vasectomy and ₹200 for the motivator who brings him in. Still, the response remains lukewarm.

At its core, this issue is not just about surgery — it's about equality, responsibility, and trust. Women, already carrying the physical and emotional load of pregnancy and childbirth, are again expected to undergo sterilisation.

Meanwhile, men continue to dodge the scalpel, backed by deep-rooted gender norms and misplaced fears. Doctors, activists, and women themselves are now asking the critical question: Why must only women bear the weight of family planning surgeries in the 21st century?

Lack of shoreline vegetation is killing lakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mainly due to the presence of nutrients in the water, experts say.

This growth impacts water transparency, one of the indicators of lake health. If the water is turbid and less transparent, light does not penetrate deeper depths, leading to high variability in oxygen levels along with anoxic conditions and fish kill events.

The bacteria grow rapidly in the presence of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Nutrient levels in these lakes go up either due to internal or external loading. External loading happens when secondary-treated or raw sewage enters the lakes. Internal loading is due to the release of nutrients from lake sediment.

Jamwal says the reason behind excessive nutrients is a lack of shoreline vegetation.

"Shoreline vegetation creates a delicate balance in a lake ecosystem. If removed, cyanobacteria are exposed to a large amount of sunlight, which increases their capability to multiply exponentially. After the bloom, the bacteria also die at the end of the life cycle, forming a layer of organic matter at the bottom of the lake. This organic matter starts decaying, which causes a further dip in oxygen level," said Jamwal.

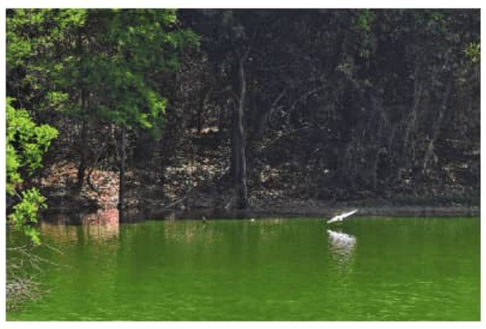
Restoration not holistic

Experts say this holistic approach of lake restoration is not being applied in the restoration process taken up by the BBMP.

"BBMP is focusing on increasing water spread area and depth of the lakes, and it is doing so by disturbing shoreline vegetation. Inflow is being diverted, causing stagnant water conditions. The civic agency should include these scientific inputs in the DPRs for lake restoration," said a city-based lake expert.

Lake experts and activists call for an overhaul of the lake rejuvenation process being followed by the BBMP.

V Ramprasad, founder of Friends



of Lakes and city-based lake expert, also suggests that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) should pitch in on the process with a bigger role to play.

"We need to define the purpose and functionality of Bengaluru's lakes. That apart, the detailed project reports should be managed by KTCDA. BBMP focuses only on beautification and recreation. However, managing the nutrient cycle of lakes and ponds is not an expertise of the current fleet of BBMP's civil engineers or KTCDA officials. Clean water is one of the fundamental rights of citizens, which is being violated by these agencies," lamented Ramprasad.

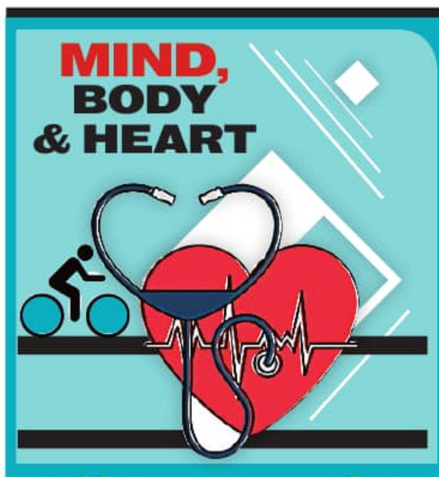
Lake activists say the entry of raw sewage either through BWSSB's pipelines connected to storm water drains or by a private agency or individual should be treated as a criminal act under the Water Act.

Some also highlight that lake water quality is one of the measurable targets that, when achieved, will trigger the release of the recently approved loan by the World Bank to revive the city's water bodies. If the water quality is not improved, the loan of 426 million dollars might get cancelled halfway through.

"Lakes should be considered as flood mitigation zones and should be treated accordingly. If agencies such as BBMP, KTCDA, BWSSB, and KSPCB fail to improve the water quality of Bengaluru's lakes, the 426 million dollar loan approved by the World Bank might be in jeopardy," added Ramprasad.

HEALTH TIP: Aloe vera juice with lemon helps cleanse your digestive tract and promotes better metabolism

Research shows that moringa leaf powder can reduce blood glucose levels and improve insulin secretion



All you need to know about...

PCOS

Common hormonal issue
PCOS is one of the most common hormonal disorders affecting women of reproductive age, yet it remains significantly underdiagnosed or misdiagnosed. "Understanding PCOS is the need of the hour not just for patients but for healthcare providers too," says Dr Rajani C, Senior Consultant, Reproductive Medicine and Gynaecology, MGM Healthcare, Chennai.

What is it?
"PCOS is not just about irregular menstruation or persistent acne," explains Dr Rajani. "It is a complex endocrine dysfunction with a wide range of symptoms."

Cause and effect
The root cause lies in increased insulin resistance, which triggers an overproduction of androgens (male hormones). These excess hormones lead to:
Persistent or recurring acne
Hair fall or unwanted hair growth
Weight gain, especially in the abdominal area
Voice changes in some cases

What is your body telling you?
Often, women don't realise that signs like dark velvety patches in skin folds that happens in neck, armpits, groin are early warnings. These point to insulin resistance, a hallmark of PCOS, and increase the risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes later.
Menstrual health is another major signal. Irregular cycles whether unusually delayed or brought on only by medication may indicate absent or delayed ovulation, a key feature of PCOS.

How to manage it
While PCOS cannot be cured, it can be successfully managed with lifestyle modications such as:
Regular physical activity
A balanced, consistent diet
Weight management
Medical treatments such as hormone therapy or ovulation induction may be advised for some.

— Femina

PAN-INDIA PLATE

Recipes from different parts of the country

ALOO PALAK (MAHARASHTRA)

INGREDIENTS
- Spinach finely chopped – 500 gms
- Potato boiled and roughly mashed – 250 gms
- Onion (thinly sliced) – 100 gms
- Tomato thinly sliced – 100 gms
- Coriander powder – 2 tsp
- Garam Masala powder – 1 tsp
- Turmeric powder – 1/2 tsp
- Red Chilli powder – 2 tsp
- Ginger-garlic paste – 1/2 tbsp
- Mustard seeds – 1/4 tsp
- Vegetable oil – 3 tbsp
- Salt to taste

METHOD
- Wash the spinach leaves and chop them.
- In a pan, heat some oil, add mustard seeds and let them splutter.
- Once the mustard seeds start spluttering, add chopped green chilis, onions, turmeric and salt.
- Fry the onion on a slow flame until golden brown.
- To this, add ginger-garlic paste and saute until the raw smell of garlic goes off.
- Now add coriander powder, garam masala powder and red chilli powder.
- Fry until the raw smell of masala goes off.
- Add slightly mashed potato to it and stir nicely.
- Now it's time to add chopped spinach. Stir well.
- Add sliced tomatoes and mix everything well. Cook for another 3-4 minutes or until the tomatoes are well cooked.
- Once done switch off the gas and serve along with hot chapatis, paratha or puri. This can also be served as a side dish along with rice and some curry.

(From Taste of India, on Audible)

INJI THIYAL/TANGY GINGER CURRY (KERALA)

INGREDIENTS
- Ginger thinly sliced – 350 gm
- Chilli Powder – 3-4 tsp or to taste
- Tamarind – small gooseberry-sized or to taste
- Jaggery – 2 tbsp
- Mustard seeds – 1/2 tsp
- Coconut oil to fry ginger – 1/2 cup
- Salt to taste

METHOD
- In a kadhai, heat coconut oil
- Fry the ginger pieces until it turns brown and crispy. When it cools down, coarsely grind in a mixer and set aside.
- Now soak the tamarind in warm water (around ½ cup of water and extract its juice)
- Heat oil in a pan (use the same oil used to fry ginger).
- Once the oil is hot add mustard seeds and let it splutter.
- After that add the ground ginger and mix well. Add the strained tamarind extract and bring it to a boil.
- Add the chilly powder and salt to it. Bring the heat to low.Cook for another 10 to 15 minutes stirring occasionally or until the oil separates and switch off the flame. (You can adjust the gravy as per the consistency you like).
- Add jaggery and mix well.
- The Inji Theeyal is ready to be served. Inji Theeyal can also be stored in a refrigerator for at least 2 weeks.

(From Taste of India, on Audible)

PATISHAPTA (BENGAL)

INGREDIENTS
For The Crepe Batter
- 1 cup refined flour
- ¼ cup suji • 1½ cup milk
- A pinch of salt
- 2 green cardamoms, powdered
- 3 ½ tablespoons sugar

For The Crepe Filling
- 1 cup scraped coconut
- 1 cup grated jaggery
- ½ cup mawa

METHOD
- Whisk together flour, suji, milk, salt and cardamom powder in a bowl till you get a smooth batter without any lumps.
Rest the batter for one hour.
- Add the sugar and mix well.
- Cook the coconut, jaggery and mawa in a pan until everything comes together and the excess liquid dries up. Keep the mixture aside to cool.
- Heat a non-stick skillet. Pour in a ladleful of batter, swirl the pan in a circular motion to get a perfectly round crepe.
- Place one tablespoon of filling in the shape of a cylinder on one end of the crepe.
- Roll the crepe, ensuring that the filling is completely enclosed and serve warm to enjoy the lump-free Patishaptas.

—Chef Ananya Bannerjee, for Femina

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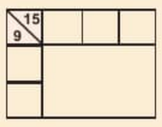
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

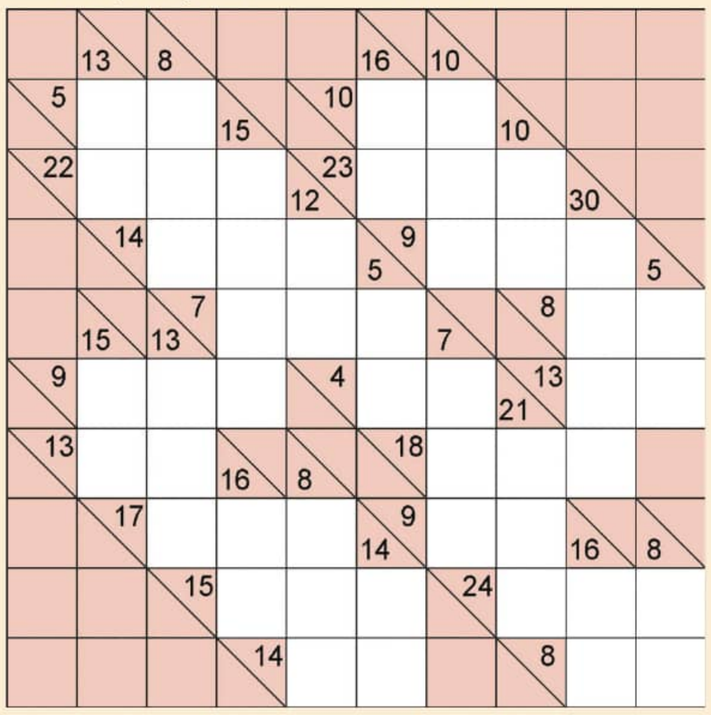
7.2 ÷ 2.2 x 6.6 + 6.6^2 – 3.1 = ?

Kakuro

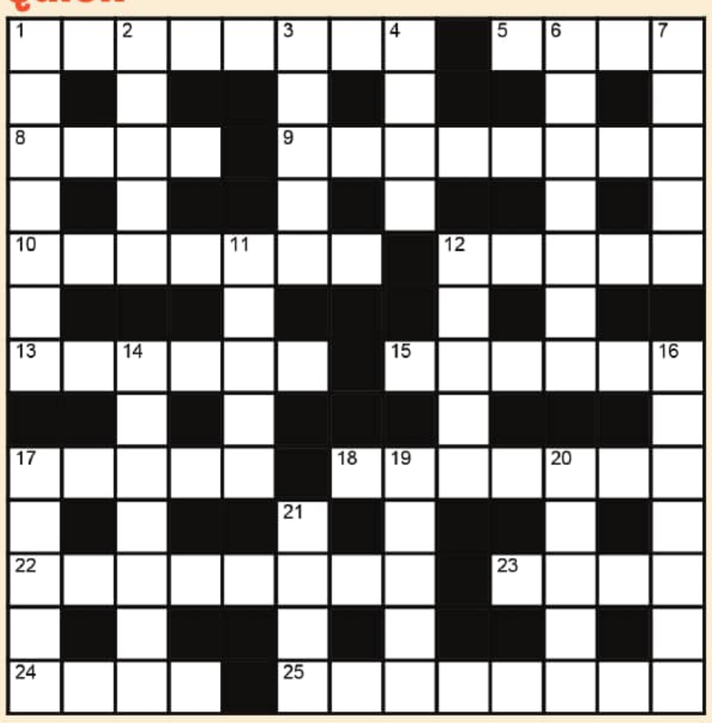
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Bowling feat (3-5)
5 Skilfully (4)
8 Ranks or tiers (4)
9 Government building that offers a view of Ulsoor Lake on one side and the Bangalore Race Course on the other (4,4)
10 Spookiest (7)
12 Religious orders (5)
13 Suffer from hunger (6)
15 Building debris (6)
17 Serpentine (5)
18 Insults, outrages or slights (7)
22 Defer (8)
23 Large water jug (4)
24 Trojan War hero (4)
25 Dejected (8)

DOWN

1 Stinging insects? (7)
2 Tall building (5)
3 Poetic feet of one kind (5)
4 Lock openers (4)
6 Young animal–"curb Abe" anagram? (4,3)
7 Shouts (5)
11 Emissary (5)
12 Powdered tobacco (5)
14 Asian body of water (4,3)
16 Made certain (7)
17 Brownish colour (5)
19 Combustible materials (5)
20 Very recently (5)
21 Disposition (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS O

RIJB RTB IRRHRKPB FS I WRKPBGR, GBMBU QB RFF QHD RF IWJ YKBWRHFGW, GBMBU JGFE RFF NKVT RF XBIUG WFN-BRTHGD GBE.

Linemaro

I am an accountant, so I'm great with figures

Mindchow

Like the measles, love is most dangerous when it comes late in life

Joke of the day

A bank is a place where they lend you an umbrella in fair weather and ask for it back when it rains

Loop

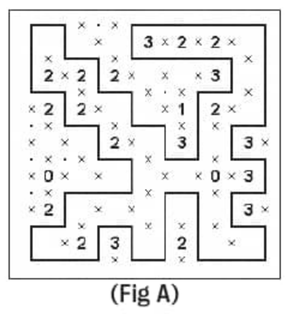
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

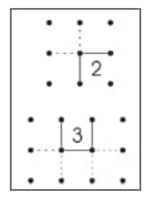
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

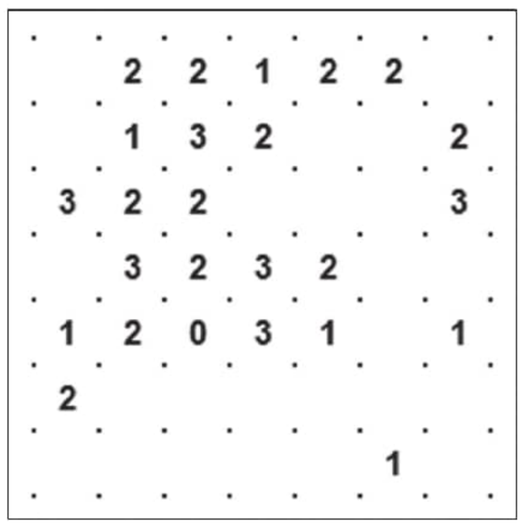
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



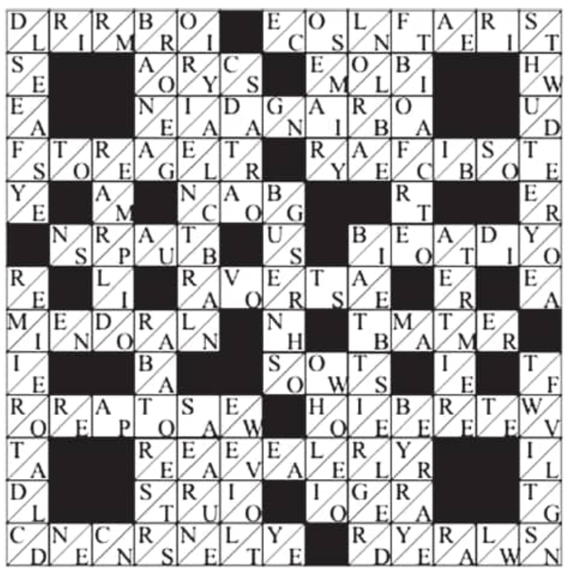
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



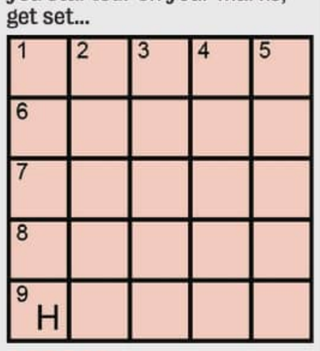
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

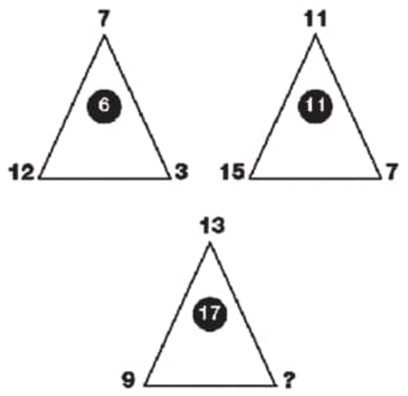
1 Girts; 6 Con NE;
7 Ranet; 8 Siren;
9 So hop

DOWN

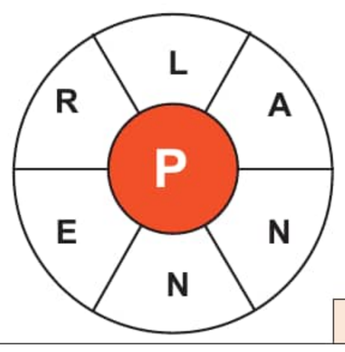
1 Hangs; 2 One or;
3 It nor; 4 Crisp;
5 Tense

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

6		5					4	
						7	2	
	7		3		2			8
9	4	6	7					5
	5						1	
2					4	3	9	7
5			1		3		7	
	9	3						
	6					1		4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

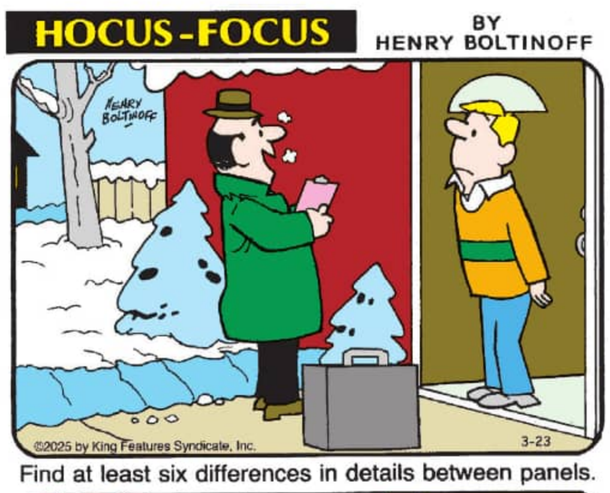
Easy = 9
3 6 7 7

Medium = 15
2 2 3 8

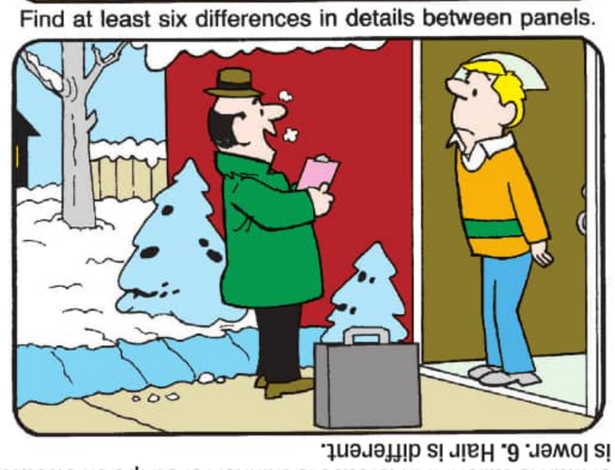
Hard = 29
2 5 6 9

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



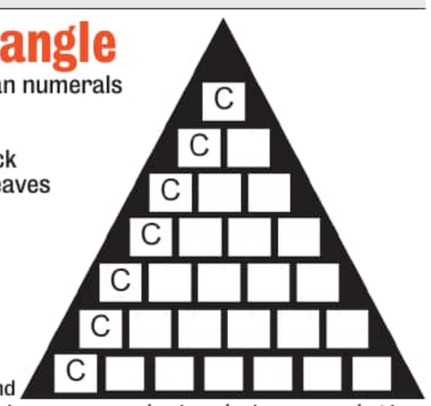
Differences: 1. Coat is shorter. 2. Tree is straighter. 3. Man is taller. 4. Briefcase is thinner. 5. Stripe on sweater is lower. 6. Hair is different.

Riddler

For each of the following, find a word that may be appended to each of the three words in the group to form three new valid words. For example, given: "friend, owner, dealer", you would need to find the word "ship", which, when appended to these words, results in the three new valid words: "friendship", "ownership", and "dealership" respectively. 1. water, air, space 2. back, off, multi 3. car, white, hand 4. cow, dumb, door

Alpha triangle

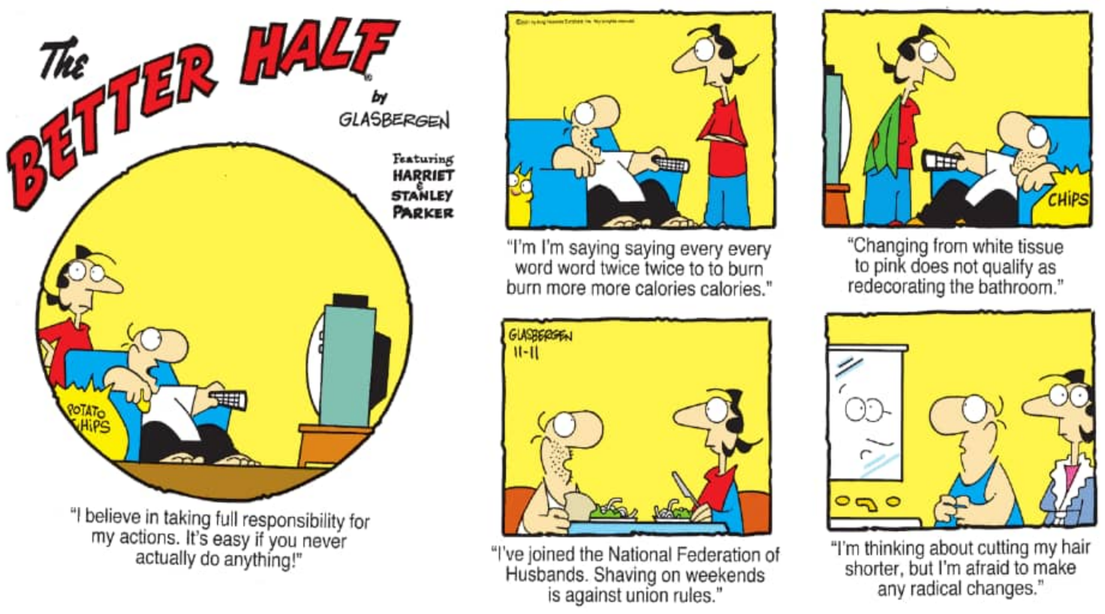
1 Hundred in Roman numerals
2 Calcium symbol
3 Road vehicle
4 Steep rugged rock
5 Rolled tobacco leaves
6 Worrying about
7 Yearning



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
ROTATO HIPS
"I believe in taking full responsibility for my actions. It's easy if you never actually do anything!"
"I'm I'm saying saying every every word word twice twice to to burn burn more more calories calories."
CHIPS
"Changing from white tissue to pink does not qualify as redecorating the bathroom."
GLASBERGEN 11-11
"I've joined the National Federation of Husbands. Shaving on weekends is against union rules."
"I'm thinking about cutting my hair shorter, but I'm afraid to make any radical changes."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
YOU KNOW, MOM'S HAVE MONDAYS, TOO!
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2/2

FLASH GORDON
DALE ARDEN
DR. HANS ZARKOV
FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE 7-23
HAVING REUNITED WITH DR. ZARKOV, FLASH AND DALE MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH MONGO'S WILDERNESS.
I FOUND ENOUGH PROVISIONS TO LAST US ONLY A FEW DAYS. OUR FIRST PRIORITY MUST BE TO FIND SHELTER.
COULDN'T AGREE MORE, DOC.
FLASH, SOMETHING'S WRONG. THE JUNGLE AROUND US...
GOTCHA. IT'S QUIET... TOO QUIET.
LOOK!
SKREEE SKREEE SKREEE
THOOM! THOOM!
WHAT THE...?! THE GROUND.. IT'S SHAKING!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S BIG... AND IT'S HEADED OUR WAY!
THOOM! THOOM!
KRRASHHH! MRRAAAAA!
NEXT: TWO-HEADED TERROR!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
The day may start off slow, with low energy affecting your health and delaying outcomes from meetings. You might feel unproductive or frustrated. Avoid rash driving or adventurous activities. However, by late evening, your mood will likely improve as positive developments lift your spirits.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
A favourable day for business growth—new clients may contribute to profit. Singles could meet someone special. Honesty is key in your personal life; concealing things from your partner may cause distance. Job seekers might receive good news, and promotions are possible for the employed.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A strong professional network supports your plans. Applying your wisdom may lead to financial gains. Domestic life will be harmonious, with a deeper bond forming with your spouse. Those in trading, brokerage, or the metal industry are likely to perform well today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A spiritual mindset dominates your day. A visit to a sacred place could bring inner peace. Donations or emotional support to those in need may feel fulfilling. Your calm, patient attitude will bring a deep sense of satisfaction throughout the day.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Sluggishness may affect your focus today. Stay mindful of your temper and avoid distractions or impulsive spending. In love, steer clear of unnecessary arguments to maintain emotional harmony with your partner.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Mental peace and joy highlight your day. You may enjoy quality time with friends and family, improving domestic bonds. Spousal harmony strengthens. New business partnerships or innovative ideas could help drive progress in your ventures.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You'll begin the day with a positive outlook. Hidden rivals may be defeated, and your work could be acknowledged by seniors, possibly resulting in new roles or a promotion. Students will benefit from mentorship and may find clarity in career decisions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Family matters take priority today. You might explore alternative income streams and engage in creative outlets like art, cinema, or fashion. Romantic clarity emerges, and students will make steady strides toward academic or professional goals.

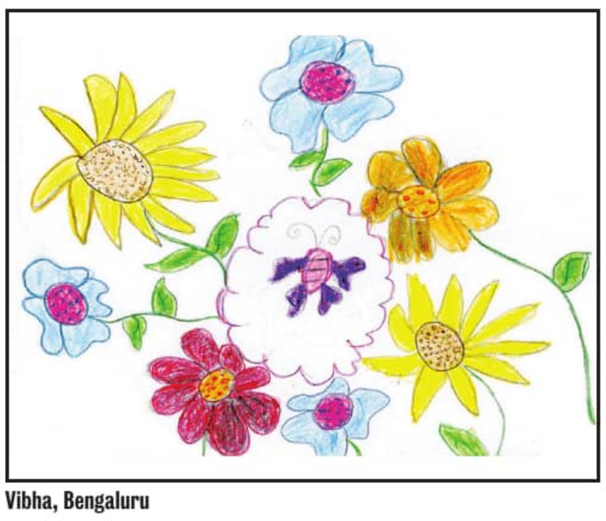
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may face indecisiveness due to too many options. Seeking advice from elders or mentors will help guide your choices. Efforts from the past may now lead to clarity and direction. Watch over your parents' health today.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Support from subordinates can make your business plans successful. A short work-related trip may bring future benefits. Family or social events could provide an opportunity to bond and broaden your network.

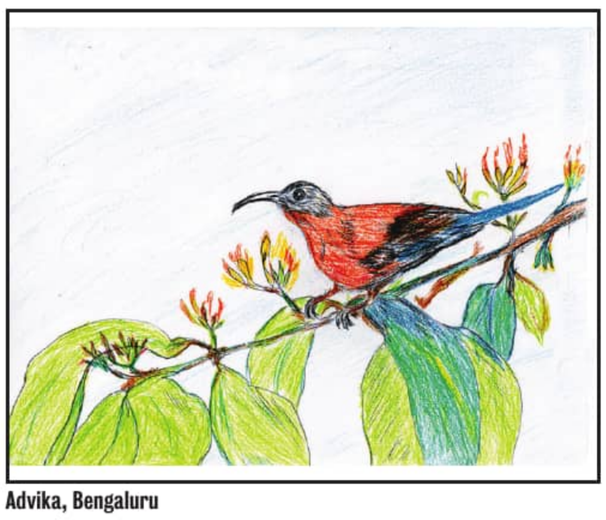
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A profitable day awaits. Strategic decisions may yield significant returns from investments. You'll likely grow your savings by curbing unnecessary spending. Lovebirds may attend a family function or celebration together.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Focus may turn to siblings or extended family today. Colleagues will support your work progress. Your social network will be helpful in completing tasks. A new venture with help from siblings or friends may take shape—small efforts could lead to big gains.

KIDZONE



Vibha, Bengaluru



Advika, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
1. craft – watercraft, aircraft, spacecraft, 2. stage – backstage, offstage, multistage, 3. wash – carwash, whitewash, handwash & 4. bell – cowbell, dumbbell, doorbell

QUOTE UNCODE
Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new.

SOLVE IN 1M
= 6.8 ÷ 2.2 x 7.2 +
6.8^2 – 3.1
= 3 x 7.2 + 43.56 -3.1
= 21.6 + 43.56 – 3.1
= 65.16 – 3.1 = 62.06

FAST FIVE

G	R	I	S	T
A	N	T	R	E
N	O	N	C	E
S	E	R	I	N
H	O	O	P	S

STRIKE OUT

L	I	M	B	O	■	C	O	N	F	E	R	S	■	■
E	■	A	R	C	■	M	O	I	■	H	■	■	■	■
A	■	N	I	A	G	A	R	A	■	U	■	■	■	■
F	O	R	G	E	T	■	R	A	C	I	S	T	■	■
Y	■	A	■	N	O	B	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	■
S	P	A	T	■	U	■	B	E	A	D	Y	■	■	■
E	■	I	■	A	O	R	T	A	■	R	■	E	■	■
M	E	D	A	L	■	N	■	T	A	M	E	■	■	■
E	■	B	■	S	■	S	O	T	■	E	■	T	■	■
R	E	P	O	S	E	■	H	E	B	R	E	W	■	■
A	■	R	E	V	E	L	R	Y	■	I	■	■	■	■
L	■	■	T	R	I	■	O	E	R	■	■	■	■	■
D	E	N	S	E	L	Y	■	D	E	A	L	S	■	■

QUICK

A	J	A	X	■	D	I	S	M	A	Y	E	D	■	■
I	■	E	■	■	O	■	■	L	■	■	E	■	■	■
P	O	S	T	P	O	N	E	■	E	W	E	R	■	■
E	■	L	■	M	■	U	■	E	■	■	U	■	■	■
S	N	A	K	Y	■	O	F	F	E	N	D	S	■	■
N	■	■	R	■	O	■	F	■	■	■	N	■	■	■
S	T	A	R	V	E	■	R	U	B	B	L	E	■	■
T	■	■	N	■	■	N	■	■	U	■	■	■	■	■
E	E	R	I	E	S	T	■	S	E	C	T	S	■	■
N	■	E	■	B	■	S	■	R	■	L	■	■	■	■
O	■	O	■	A	■	E	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	O	W	S	M	A	Y	O	H	A	L	L	■	■	■
H	A	T	T	R	I	C	K	■	A	B	L	Y	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
13. In each triangle, add up the lower 3 digits and divide by 3 to give the value at the apex of the triangle.

BULL'S EYE
leap, nape, pale, paler, pane, panel, pare, peal, pear, pearl, penal, plan, plane, PLANNER, plea, rape, reap

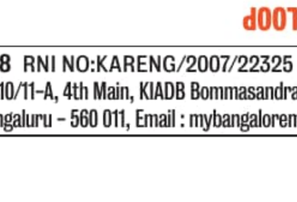
SUDOKU

6	2	5	8	1	7	9	4	3
8	3	9	6	4	5	7	2	1
4	7	1	3	9	2	5	6	8
9	4	6	7	3	1	2	8	5
3	5	7	2	8	9	4	1	6
2	1	8	5	6	4	3	9	7
5	8	4	1	2	3	6	7	9
1	9	3	4	7	6	8	5	2
7	6	2	9	5	8	1	3	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, Ca, Car, Crag, Cigar, Caring, Craving.

GO FIGURE
7 – 7 + 3 + 6 = 9
Easy
2 + 3 + 8 + 2 = 15
Medium
2 x 9 + 6 + 5 = 29
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO

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Tom Holland's job of a lifetime

On working with the famous director Christopher Nolan for his star-studded adaptation of Homer's classic poem, 'The Odyssey', Tom Holland said the film would be "unlike anything we've ever seen"

BangaloreMirror | 16
Sunday, July 13, 2025
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EVERDAY PEOPLE

Deepika reveals what is self-care for her

Bollywood star and new mother Deepika Padukone said that for her self-care is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy.

Deepika took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a mirror selfie. In the image, the actress has a facemask on and is seen giving a slight smile as she posed for the picture.

For the caption, she wrote: "Self-care for me is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy. As we celebrate self-care month, consider taking a moment for yourself?."

In other news, the actress has joined Allu Arjun and Atlee's magnum opus tentatively titled "AA22XA6."

It was last month, taking to its X timeline, Sun Pictures, the production house had mentioned: "The Queen marches to conquer! Welcome onboard @deepikapadukone..."

The production house shared a video of Atlee meeting Deepika and narrating the script to her.

The clip also gives a glimpse of Deepika's motion capture portions in the film. The visuals give the impression that Deepika plays a queen, who rides a horse and wields a sword in the film.

The clip also had Allu Arjun talking to Mike Elizalde, the president of Spectral Motion and asking him what he thought of the script.

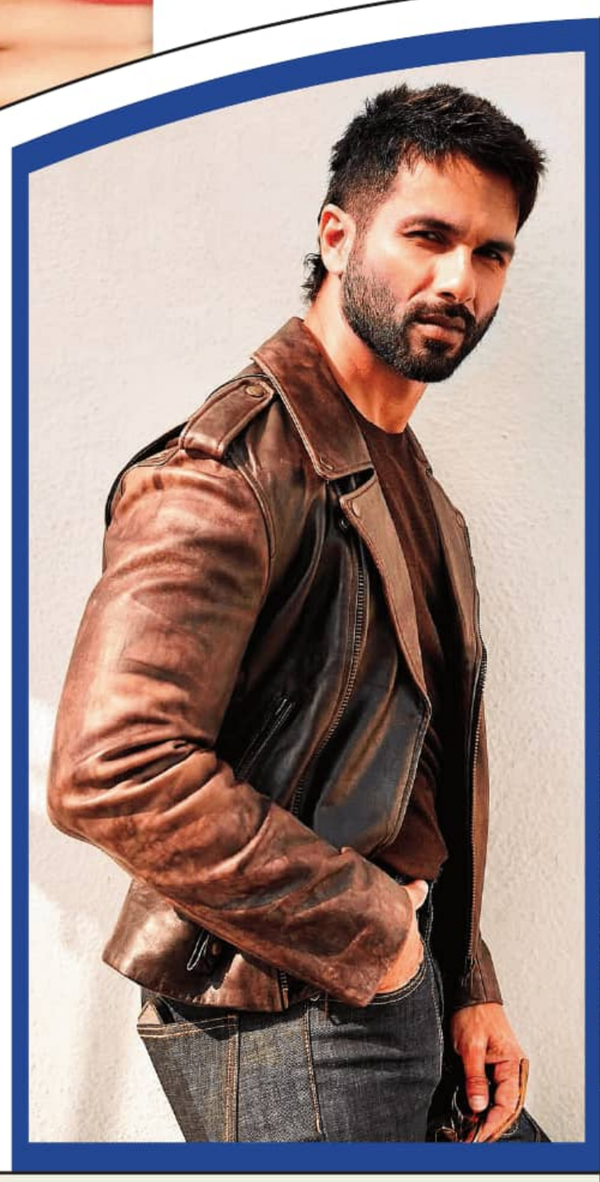
Deepika is also keeping busy with mommy duties to her newborn daughter Dua. The actress and her husband Ranveer Singh, welcomed their first bundle of joy in September 2024.

The actress started dating Ranveer Singh in 2012 while shooting for Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. They got married in 2018 in traditional Konkani Hindu and Sikh Anand Karaj ceremonies at Lake Como, Italy.

Deepika was last seen on screen in Rohit Shetty's Singham Again. The film stars Ajay Devgn, Ranveer, Akshay Kumar, Shweta Tiwari, Dayanand Shetty, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Arjun Kapoor and Jackie Shroff.'

—IANS

Of early morning flights



Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor has hilariously revealed that he finds early morning flights "just the best."

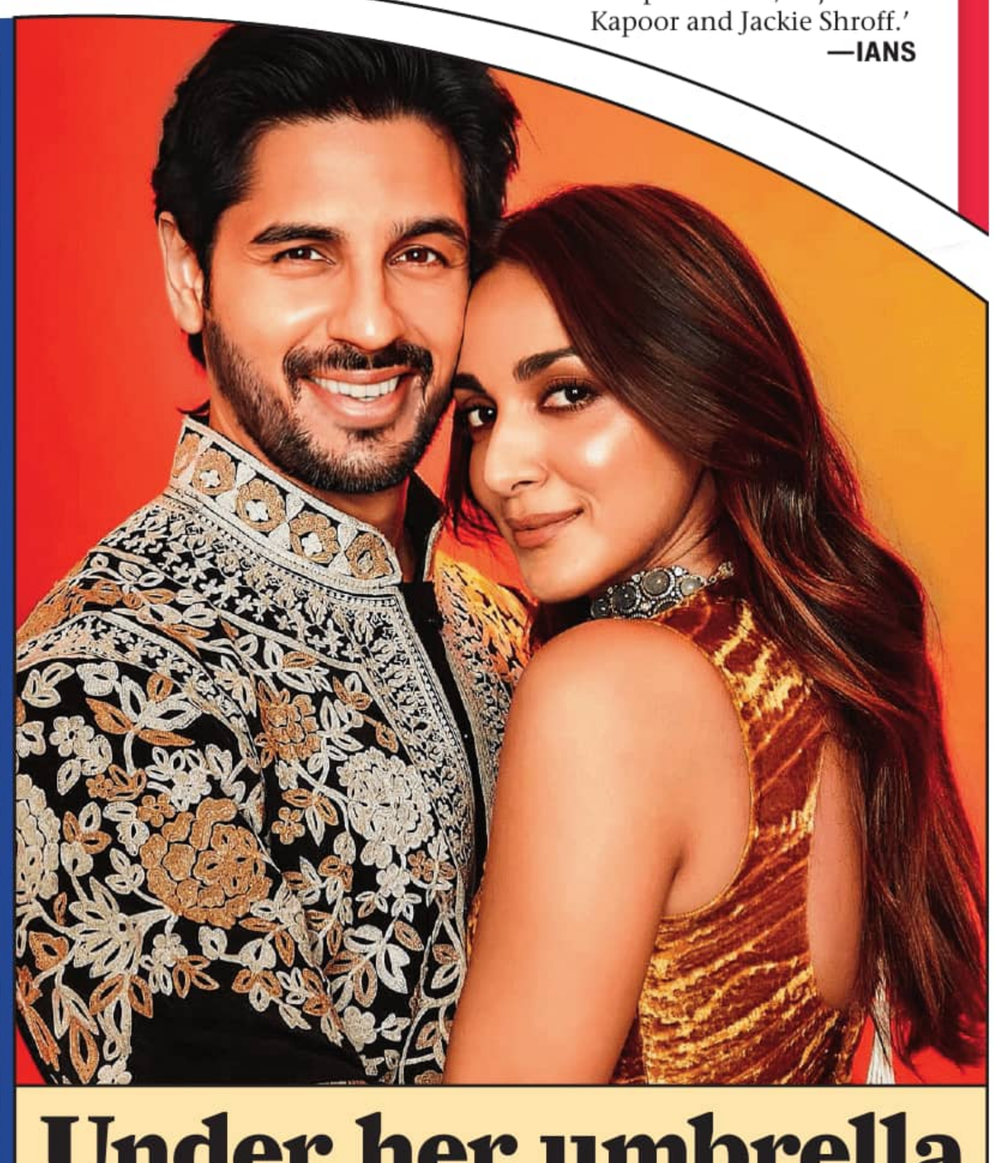
Shahid took to Instagram stories, where he shared a selfie picture. The image showed half of his face and the actor could be seen making a goofy expression.

"Such a fan of early morning flights.... Just the best...." he wrote as the caption.

Shahid did not reveal as to where and why he was travelling. Shahid is prepping for his upcoming film directed by Vishal Bhardwaj. The gangster film also stars Triptii Dimri, Nana Patekar, and Randeep Hooda. It is set in Mumbai in the 1990s and is about the post-independence underworld.

"Arjun Ustara" is a love story set in the 1990s that is also full of action and gangsters. The film is set in the post-independence underworld of Mumbai.

In other news, the actor and his wife Mira Rajput Kapoor celebrated 10 years of marital bliss on July 7. —IANS



Under her umbrella

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra are expecting their first baby, a joyful announcement they shared earlier this year in February.

Since then, they've kept a low profile, stepping out only occasionally. Recently, the couple was seen visiting a doctor's clinic, carefully shielding themselves from the cameras with a large umbrella. Joining them were Sidharth's mother, Rimma Malhotra, and Kiara's parents, Genevieve and Jagdeep Advani, showing the close family support during this special time.

A video captured Kiara and Sidharth arriving at a clinic. They used a big yellow umbrella to hide from the cameras as they quickly walked to the entrance. Sidharth Malhotra was seen helping Kiara climb the steps, showing his care for her.

In other images, Kiara is seen arriving at the clinic, seated in the backseat of a car with a mask covering her face, maintaining her privacy. These photos offer a rare glimpse of her during this private moment.

Baby bump debut

In May, at the Met Gala 2025, Kiara gracefully revealed her baby bump for the first time in public. She wore an outstanding custom gown and tenderly held her bump, radiating a beautiful glow. Her appearance was a heartfelt celebration of her pregnancy, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present. —ETimes

She said it

Shreya Dhanwanthary slams CBFC for deleting 33-second kissing scene in 'Superman': calls it "Absolute Nonsense"

Shreya Dhanwanthary criticized the Central Board of Film Certification for cutting a brief kissing scene from the Hollywood movie 'Superman'. She called the censorship unreasonable, complaining that such actions spoil the cinema experience and insisting that viewers should have the freedom to choose what they want to see.

On the evening of July 11, Shreya took to Instagram stories to highlight a news headline stating, "CBFC deletes 33-second-long 'sensual visual' in Superman," Lashing out, the actress said, "They want us to go to the theatres. They want us to stop pirating stuff. I don't understand. Why make the theatre going experience so horrible then? LET US DECIDE WHAT WE WANT TO WATCH!!!! Let us decide what we want to do with our time and money!".

She further wrote, "...Then they blame the audience and say that we don't go to the cinemas anymore and then wonder why people watch mediocre crap on OTT's and TV. It is because you are making the other options intolerable!!! A cinema hall is THE best way to experience a film. You are killing this and us by treating us like children."